

# Chancroid Facts

Chancroid is a highly contagious but curable STD caused by a bacteria. It is very common in parts of Asia and Africa and is becoming more common in the U.S.

## Possible Signs and Symptoms

- *Women often do not have symptoms.*
- Symptoms usually occur within 10 days of exposure
- Chancroid ulcers usually begin as an elevated bump that becomes a puss filled open sore with ragged edges
- Chancres may be tender to the touch—they may be painful in men and unnoticed in women
- Painful lymph nodes may occur in the groin, usually on one side

## Transmission

- Through skin-to-skin contact with an open chancroid ulcer, usually during sexual activity such as vaginal, anal, or oral sex

## Prevention

- Abstain from oral, anal, and vaginal sex
- Consistent, correct use of latex or polyurethane condoms or barriers during oral, anal, or vaginal sex
- Early treatment of STD infection
- If a partner is infected, avoid sexual contact until partner's treatment is completed
- Ensure appropriate treatment of an infected partner

## Treatment

- Examination and tests by a health care provider to diagnose and determine best course of treatment
- Chancroid is curable with antibiotics
- Follow-up examination can help ensure that treatment has been successful
- Treatment of sexual partner(s)

## Complications/Effects if Left Untreated

- Increased risk for HIV infection
- Lymph node glands can become infected and painful and require surgery to treat

## Help Stop the Spread of Infection...

- Refrain from sexual contact (oral, anal, or vaginal sex) if you have symptoms
- Seek medical attention, including STD tests
- Refrain from any sexual activity with others until your treatment has been completed
- Take all medications prescribed, even if you no longer have symptoms
- Make sure all recent sex partners are notified if you have chancroid
- Annual STD screenings if you are, or have been, sexually active
- Avoid touching infected areas to avoid spreading chancroid to other parts of your own body

For more information about STDs or about testing and treatment in New Jersey, please call the HIV/STD hotline or visit our web site:

**1-800-624-2377**

<http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/stdhome.htm>

